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Subject: Funding for Public Libraries

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask that funding for the following be reinstated into the budget:

Restore \$1.25M (up from \$950,000 in past budget) to Connecticard
Restore \$500,000 (up from \$332,00 in past budget) to Cooperating Library Service Units (CLC)

These services not only save money, but provide invaluable services to public libraries and connecticut's residents. In many places in CT, these services allow the Public Library to exist. For every state tax dollar invested, CT's libraries and taxpayers will receive a \$37.50 public service return on investment (375%). Without this funding, the savings CT residents realized through Connecticard (\$68M in 2014 by borrowing 4.5 million items from libraries across the state) will vanish, placing an undue burden on both towns and residents.

My library would be devastated should these cuts occur, it would hurt youth through seniors, would force the library to reduce staffing, contributing to greater unemployment and the ripple effect goes on and on.

Times are hard, please do not take away the one thing that serves all people of all ages throughout the state. It would hurt far more than it would save.

Su Epstein

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